

ABSTRACT

A method and means of counteracting the effects of variation in static pressure acting upon a hollow rotor blade or hydrofoil (6, 7) for devices capable of extracting energy from a moving column (8) of water or other liquid within which the rotor of hydrofoil is located whether the device rotates as in the case of an axial flow turbine or whether it reciprocates in the flow such that cyclic static pressure fluctuations caused by vertical movement of the rotor blades or hydrofoils through the water column (8) including the step of equalising the pressure inside and outside the rotor blade or hydrofoil by filling any voids (17) within the hollow rotor blades or hydrofoils with a liquid in such manner as to allow the external surface (26) of said rotor blades or hydrofoils to "breathe"; i.e., to expand and contract under the influence of external static pressure variations, whereby cyclic static pressure fluctuations caused by vertical movement of the rotor blades or hydrofoils through the water column (8) do not cause fluctuating stresses in the rotor blades or hydrofoils.